



Shoshone County

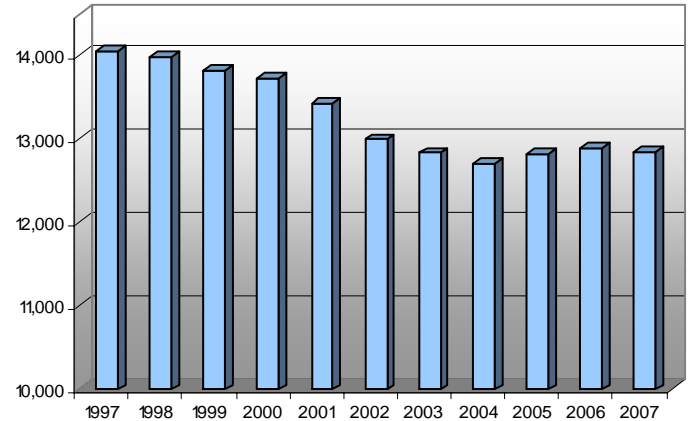
October 2008

Work Force Trends

Population

After devastating mine and smelter closures, Shoshone County's population fell 28 percent in the 1980s. In the 1990s, the population declined slightly. Increasingly some Silver Valley towns became bedroom communities for the Coeur d'Alene area. From 1997 to 2007, the population fell 9 percent from 14,051 to 12,838, while Idaho's population grew 22 percent and the U.S. population grew 11 percent. With its economic outlook brighter, offering job opportunities for young adults, and many retirees choosing to move there, the county's population should grow at a fair clip during the next few years.

The county seat, Wallace, has a population of 880. The largest cities are Kellogg, population 2,230; Pinehurst, 1,560; and Osburn, 1,390.

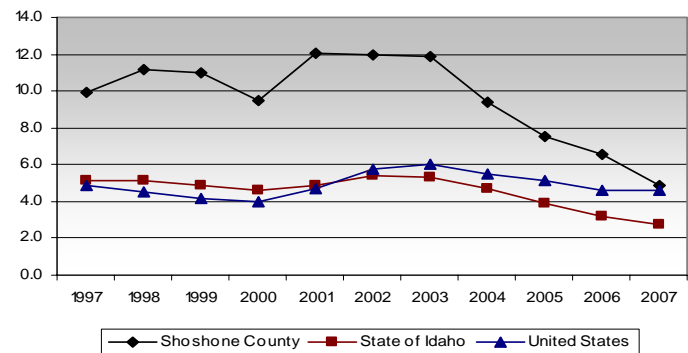


Labor Force & Employment

High silver prices currently are helping the mining industry, which had declined from a peak of 4,200 jobs in 1981 to 340 jobs in 2002. The Lucky Friday and Galena mines, which were the only major mines left open, employ twice as many people as they did three years ago. The Sunshine Mine, which closed in 2001, reopened in 2007, and employs more than 170 people. Many exploration efforts are going on, and it's possible more mines will open. Currently, the mining industry employs about 700 people. Its high average annual wage of \$61,000 gives it additional economic clout.

Shoshone County is developing its tourism sector. In 1990, the world's longest gondola opened, running from Kellogg to the Silver Mountain ski area. Last spring, Silver Mountain Resort opened an indoor water park and broke ground on an 18-hole golf course. The city of Wallace draws many travelers off Interstate 90 to shop and play in its

Unemployment Rates



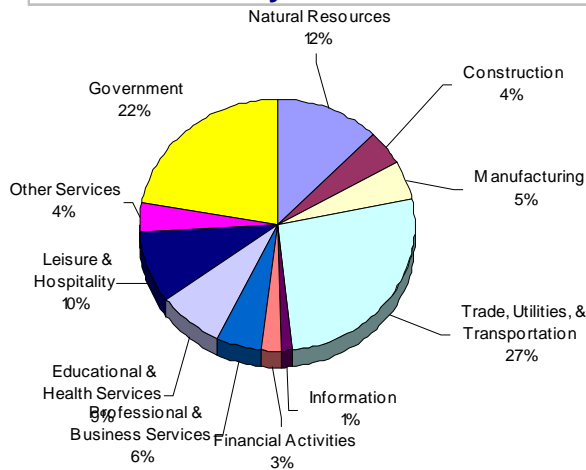
charming downtown. Lookout, a small ski area along Interstate 90 next to the Montana border, doubled employment in the last four years. Growing numbers of hikers, bicyclists and snowmobilers are exploring the hundreds of miles of trails in Shoshone County. The ski areas, other tourist facilities, lodging, restaurants, restaurants, and bars employ about 600 people.

The county's retail and service sectors are growing as population grows, tourism increases and incomes rise. Dave Smith Motors, an automobile dealership in Kellogg, employs nearly 400 people, making it the county's largest employer.

Labor Force	Sep 2007	Sep 2008
Civilian Labor Force	5,511	6,033
Total Employment	5,277	5,577
Unemployed	234	456
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.2	7.6
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.7	5.0
U.S. % Unemployed	4.7	6.1

Labor Force	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Civilian Labor Force	6,728	6,796	6,545	6,119	5,741	5,441	5,462	5,523	5,636	5,560	5,667
Unemployment	664	763	719	581	690	653	650	517	424	363	278
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.9	11.2	11.0	9.5	12.0	12.0	11.9	9.4	7.5	6.5	4.9
Employment	6,064	6,033	5,826	5,538	5,052	4,789	4,812	5,006	5,212	5,196	5,389

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2007



Economic Development

In the early 1980s, Shoshone County was one of Idaho's three most prosperous counties. More than 20 years of high unemployment made the county the third poorest by 2003. Fortunately, rising employment and wages are helping Shoshone County regain some of its former luster. According to U.S. Housing & Urban Development estimates, the county's median family income grew 24 percent between 2003 and 2008, while U.S. median family income grew 9. The Silver Valley Economic Development Corporation is working to expand and diversify the local economic base.

Major Employers

Dave Smith Motors
Galena Mine
Lucky Friday Mine
Shoshone Medical Center
Silver Mountain Resort
Sunshine Mine
U.S. Forest Service
Wal-Mart

Occupational Wages*

Starting Wage

Assemblers	\$7.25
Bookkeepers	\$8.75
Carpenters, Journey-level	\$16.00
Cashiers	\$6.75
Clerks, General Office	\$7.50
Clerks, Retail	\$7.00
Cooks, Restaurant	\$7.50
Janitors	\$7.75
Laborers, Mine	\$11.80
Miners, Contract	\$16.75
Nurses, Registered	\$18.25
Secretaries, General	\$7.75
Truck Drivers, Heavy	\$13.00

* Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor Web site at lmi.idaho.gov.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1997, 2006, & 2007	1997		2006		2007	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	4,892	\$22,046	4,476	\$29,574	4,769	\$31,684
Agriculture	96	\$21,013	72	\$42,859	86	\$46,697
Mining	726	\$35,406	411	\$57,165	569	\$60,988
Construction	316	\$30,140	232	\$29,500	212	\$28,758
Manufacturing	205	\$20,566	248	\$26,937	251	\$29,207
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	898	\$19,176	1,119	\$32,045	1,282	\$32,300
Information	43	\$15,844	32	\$21,849	56	\$24,985
Financial Activities	116	\$20,672	116	\$21,285	125	\$22,532
Professional and Business Services	271	\$23,009	314	\$24,208	254	\$30,403
Educational and Health Services	378	\$17,187	369	\$24,618	372	\$25,521
Leisure and Hospitality	481	\$8,066	411	\$10,175	444	\$10,363
Other Services	95	\$10,933	95	\$18,356	93	\$19,918
Government	1,266	\$22,443	1,056	\$28,978	1,024	\$28,933

Per Capita Income	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Shoshone County	\$17,921	\$19,080	\$18,736	\$19,180	\$19,981	\$21,186	\$22,710	\$25,082	\$25,367	\$26,946
State of Idaho	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,077	\$25,024	\$25,221	\$25,524	\$27,361	\$28,301	\$29,920
United States	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,843	\$30,574	\$30,821	\$31,504	\$33,123	\$34,757	\$36,714

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office listed below:
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labor.idaho.gov

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